ARTICLES

OF THE

FALKIRK SOCIETY,

Begun under that TITLE, *May* 15, 1749.

Corrected, amended, and ordered to be printed by the Society,

SPICER-LANE, QUAY-SIDE, *NEWCASTLE*,

MARCH 15, 1783.

JAMES COIT, } STEWARDS.
ROBERT KERR, }

"*Be kindly affectionate one to another.*" ROM. xii. 10.

BROTHERLY LOVE, is the Foundation-stone,
To raise the firm and lasting structure on,
That we would never wish for to erase,
Whilst govern'd by such equitable LAWS. *R. K.*

NEWCASTLE:
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WE, the MEMBERS of this SOCIETY, being Proteſtants, and loyal Subjects to His Majeſty King GEORGE; (having aſſociated together for ſeveral Years, not for any *ſchiſmatical Factious, or diſloyal Deſign*, againſt Church or State; but for the good of each other: to the Intent that a FUND may be eſtabliſhed for our Relief and Support, and for the Eaſe of this Place when Affliction of any Kind doth overtake us;) do agree and oblige ourſelves ſtrictly to obſerve the following ARTICLES.

BRITISH MUSEUM

ARTICLES

OF THE

FALKIRK SOCIETY, &c.

ARTICLE I.

Of Admiſſion.

THAT the Members of this Society ſhall all be true Proteſtants, and Subjects to his Majeſty King GEORGE; of good characters, healthful conſtitutions, and ſound bodies, free from every defect which may render them incapacitated from endeavouring for themſelves and families.——No freeman, nor freeman's apprentice to be admitted; nor any that belong to another ſociety;—no idle, lazy, or diſorderly perſon,—no drunkard, ſwearer, or ſabbath-breaker;—no whoremonger nor unclean perſon;——none who lieth under ſcandal or church cenſure;—none above forty years of age *. All members to be admitted in the preſence

* This does not hinder an old man and his friend, viz. a father and his ſon, or two brothers; provided the one be as much under forty as the other is above it, with

preſence of, and by the conſent of the company. If deſired, they ſhall bring certificates of the above qualifications within twelve weeks after their admiſſion, otherwiſe forfeit their entrance money and be excluded.

NOTE. Charges at entrance are, 3s. 6d. to the fund, 2d. to the clerk, 1d. to the beadle, 3d. for drink, and 4d. for a copy of articles, in all 4s. 4d.—To pay 6d. extra' the next meeting, for the mournings, and 2s. 3d. to the fund, and 3d. for drink each quarterly meeting, and 7½d. for each funeral that ſhall happen through the quarter.

ARTICLE II.

Of Meeting-Days.

THAT the head-meeting-day ſhall be annually on St *Stephen's day*, the 26th of December (except that day fall on the Saturday or Sunday, then it ſhall be on the Monday following) on which every member, within 20 miles, ſhall be in the club-room with a BLUE BONNET, at eight o'clock in the morning.

The half-year-day ſhall be on the 15th of May, if it fall on Saturday, if not, it ſhall be the firſt Saturday after, when each member as above ſhall be in the club-room at four o'clock in the afternoon. On each of theſe days, two ſtewards and four aſſiſtants ſhall be choſen according to their ſeniority on the liſt; the firſt called

with this reſtriction only, that the younger ſhall continue a member as long as the elder, (death excepted) if not the elder ſhall be excluded ſo ſoon as it is known to the ſociety that the younger hath left it,

called to each of theſe offices ſhall be next to him laſt called upon for the ſame office.

The ſtewards ſhall chooſe each three men for the company's committee, and each ſix men for an inſpecting committee, which with the beadle will make thirteen. None to ſtand any office but ſuch as live within the five pariſhes of Newcaſtle and Gateſhead. If in the choice of ſtewards it go once through the roll, the old ſtewards ſhall nominate each two men, and the ſociety ſhall chuſe two of theſe by vote. A dinner ſhall be provided by the landlord at the company's expence, every head-meeting-day.

The quarterly meetings ſhall be on the 15th of February, the 15th of Auguſt, and the 15th of November, if theſe days fall on the ſatur-day, if not, they ſhall be on the firſt Saturday after the 15th of each of theſe months, at four o'clock in the afternoon, when the ſtewards, aſſiſtants and clerk ſhall attend. Each mem-ber's contribution money muſt be paid when called for; if not ready at calling the abſents of the firſt roll, the fine will be marked. All dues muſt be paid before the books are ſhut; what is not paid will remain debt, and cannot be taken before the next quarterly-meeting; and debtors will be deprived of all benefit, ex-cept their funeral charges.

ARTICLE III.

Of the Authority and Office of Stewards, Aſſiſtants and Committee-Men.

THE ſtewards are always to ſit in the chief place

place at all meetings; to have power to appoint the hour of meeting at all occaſional meetings, that may be neceſſary to be called for the ſociety; and likewiſe to order in what manner the buſineſs is to be conducted.—They ſhall ſee all buſineſs properly tranſacted, and all accounts and fines placed orderly in the books;—keep good order and decorum in the club-room;—fine every offender, and ſee that every tranſgreſſion be fined according to articles:—they ſhall do juſtice to both the articles and members, in taking in and laying out all caſh from, and to the members *, &c The eldeſt ſteward to keep one key of the box, the bond of ſecurity, and the landlords promiſſory note, which is to be renewed every quarter for the caſh in ſtock:—The other ſteward to keep another key, and the landlord the other, to prevent fraudulent practices.

The aſſiſtants are to keep peace and good order in the club-room while buſineſs is tranſacting;—they, with the ſtewards, company's committee and clerk, ſhall meet, when warned by the ſteward's order, to determine ſuch cauſes or diſputes as may ariſe in the ſociety, and ſuch unforſeen caſes as are not ſpecified in the articles §. The inſpecting committee are to

* The ſtewards are to be accountable for every loſs the ſociety or its members may ſuſtain through their neglect.

§ The company's committee to be allowed 1s. 7½d. for drink each committee meeting, to be kept of the company's drink on the quarter-day.

to examine the ſociety's books and accounts every half year,—to ſee that juſtice hath been done to the ſociety by the old ſtewards *.——The ſtewards and aſſiſtants to viſit the ſick within the five pariſhes, at leaſt three times a week, and pay, them in turns, as their ſick money becomes due, from the day that they declare on the box, until they declare off.——To viſit ſick members, not exceeding ſix miles, once a week, and to be allowed two-pence a mile for expences;—not to pay benefit to any member that is debtor on the books;—to ſtop payment to any found working, or doing any thing they ought not, before declaring off the box, and report it to the ſociety;—to receive the caſh for the payment of the ſick from the landlord §.

ARTICLE IV.

Of Benefit to Members in life, or at death; alſo to Wives and Widows.

THAT any clear intitled member, who has been a full year in the ſociety, if he be incapable of working, either by indiſpoſition or accident, ſhall, on the fourteenth day, after giving information thereof to the ſteward, receive five ſhillings; and if he continues ill, it ſhall be con-

* The inſpecting committee to be allowed 1s. 10½d. from the fund for drink.

§ The ſtewards to be allowed 6s. per quarter for expences; 3s. to be ſpent in the club-houſe, and 3s. at their own diſcretion.

continued twenty-ſix weeks; then half a crown for twenty-eight weeks, making in all TEN POUNDS.——If a member recovers before he has received his full benefit of ten pounds, and declare on the box again, he ſhall begin where he left off, whither at crowns or half crowns; the ſame rule to be obſerved, though one or more years ſhould be betwixt one declaration and another. Members diſtant above ſix miles, muſt ſend their declaration by certificate, atteſted by the miniſter and two church-wardens or elders of the pariſh where they are taken ill, certifying the nature, and time of their illneſs; the ſtewards being ſatisfied therewith, ſhall ſend their benefit.—The certificate to be repeated if the illneſs continue *.——If any due entituled member continues unable to work, after having received his full benefit of ten pounds, he ſhall be allowed two ſhillings per week from the fund, ſo long as he continues unable to earn a ſufficiency for the maintenace for his family, with liberty to make ſome ſmall endeavours himſelf; but if he recovers ſo far, as to be able to provide for his family, he is then to declare off the fund in the ſame manner as when receiving full benefit; that the box be not impoveriſhed thereby.

No member, when receiving benefit, is to be

* Any member being ſick, or dying at ſea, in camp or hoſpital, where ſuch certificate cannot be obtained; a certification from the officers, or thoſe preſent with the member, will intitle to the due benefit.—Charges for letters, certificates, &c. or ſending benefit ſhall be deducted from it.

be ſeen intoxicated with liquor, nor quarrelling, nor out of his houſe, or lodgings, after ten o'clock at night, from Lady-Day to Michaelmas, nor after eight o'clock from Michaelmas to Lady-day,—nor acting any buſineſs,—nor go a mile from home without leave from the ſtewards.

A clear intituled member, when he dies, ſhall be allowed fifty ſhillings, to be paid by the ſtewards, for funeral expences; and a legacy of one ſhilling for every member that pays contribution money, the next quarterly-meeting, to be paid on the quarter-day, to the widow or friend to whom it is bequeathed by Will. All members wives, or widows (if they continue their lawful and decent widows) to be allowed fifty ſhillings for funeral expences.—No benefit in life, or at death, if the illneſs, or death, of the perſon has been cauſed by his or her own fault, in raſhneſs, intemperance, or irregularity of living or acting.

A member dying, before he has been a year and a day in the ſociety, is intituled to fifty ſhillings for funeral expences, his wife the ſame.

ARTICLE V.

Of Funerals.

THAT out of the fifty ſhillings for funeral expences, there ſhall be a wainſcot coffin provided for the deceaſed, and ſix ſhillings worth of drink to be taken from the club-houſe, or to be agreed for with the landlord. All the members to attend each funeral, in a decent manner, country members, or thoſe upon the water, only

only excepted.—The ſtewards and two eldeſt aſſiſtants to ſupport the pall.—The two youngeſt members to be bidders, and to have one ſhilling each for bidding, and the beadle one ſhilling for warning the company, to be paid out of the expences: the ſame decency to be obſerved at wives or widows funerals *. The company's mournings to be lent *gratis*, to each member, member's wife, widow, or children unmarried §. The funeral expences to be refunded the next quarterly-meeting.

ARTICLE VI.

Of the Clerk and Beadle.

THAT the ſociety's clerk ſhall attend all meetings, ſhall ſit in a convenient ſeat beſide the ſtewards;—call the roll, and keep regular accounts of the ſociety's affairs,—place in the book all fines given in to him by the ſtewards or aſſiſtants, and for neglect of duty he ſhall ſubmit himſelf to the ſociety's diſcretion.—— His wages ſhall be two-pence for each member each quarter-day.

THE Beadle ſhall, by the order of the ſtewards, warn all the members, within the five pariſhes

* The ſeven to attend country funerals not exceeding twelve miles, and to be allowed 4d, a mile each.

§ No members father, mother, nor any ſtranger, to have the company's mournings without paying 4s, 6d, for the pall, 3s, for the ſcarffs, and 3s, for the cloaks; in all 10s, 6d, to be paid on their return from the funeral.

N. B. The perſon attending with the mournings, when lent as above, to be allowed ſix-pence from the fund.

pariſhes, to attend all ſtated or occaſional meetings,—when met, he ſhall ſtand at the door of the club-room, and call the abſent members names three times;—take notice of, and give in to the ſtewards what indecencies he may obſerve in the club-room:—he ſhall do ſuch of the ſociety's buſineſs as the ſtewards ſhall require:—at all times appear decent when upon the ſociety's buſineſs. His wages ſhall be one-penny for every member each quarter, a ſhilling for each funeral, a ſhilling for each by meeting, ſix-pence for warning the inſpecting committee, a quart of ale each time the company, or committee, is warned; two pair of ſhoes it the year, and a new coat every two years.

ARTICLE VII.

Of Fines *.

THE Stewards, or any member, calling a by-meeting unneceſſarily, without giving a lawful reaſon; to pay for a pint of ale for every member in the ſociety; to be drank before the company diſmiſs.

A Ten Shilling Fine.

CALLING for a vote in the company againſt having a dinner on the head-meeting-day.

Five Shilling Fines.

STEWARDS or aſſiſtants reſigning their office after being choſen.——Any member inſiſting

* No member impreſſed or forced into his Majeſty's ſervice againſt his inclination, to be fined; but they who enter, or go as ſubſtitutes, are liable to all fines.

ſiſting upon a vote in the ſociety contrary to articles.

Half Crown Fines.

BEATING or abuſing brethren in, or out of the club-room.—Reſiſting when beaten in the club-room, before appealing for redreſs.——Diſturbing the ſtewards or clerk while doing the ſociety's buſineſs.

Eighteen-pence Fines.

NOT Standing the office of ſteward or aſſiſtant, when called upon.

One Shilling Fines.

STEWARDS behind the hour on meeting-days;—neglect of duty;—neglecting to viſit the ſick;—not returning the ſick-book within ſix days.—Members totally abſent on the head-meeting day.—Rufuſing to pay fines.—Repeating grievances.——Being drunk on the *Sabbath-Day*.—Drunk at a funeral.—Swearing in the club-room.—Giving falſe information.—Returning to the ſame meeting, after being turned out for being diſguiſed with liquor.——Secreting the company's meat or drink.——Bringing a ſtranger into the club-room.——Boaſting of having eſcaped unfined for any fault.—Speaking diſreſpectfully of his Majeſty King GEORGE, or the Royal Family;—againſt civil or eccleſiaſtical government or governors.

Six-penny Fines.

ASSISTANTS behind the hour on meeting-days.—Any member revealing or making public the company's ſecrets.—Total abſence with

money

money on quarter-days.——Not anſwering the firſt roll on the head-meeting-day.——Abſent at buſineſs,—at funerals or by-meetings *,—at a vote.——Stopping a vote.—Refuſing to vote when called upon.—Taking the word out of a brother's mouth, i. e. interrupting him when ſpeaking.—Speaking two at once on any buſineſs.—Clicking at meat or drink before it is ſet down in the club-room by thoſe who ſerve.

Threepenny Fines.

ANY member on the inſpecting, or company's committee not attending at the hour when warned by the ſtewards order ‖.—Any member not taking and keeping his ſeat in the club-room.—Money not being paid when the roll of abſents are called on quarter-days.—Not anſwering the roll at funerals or by-meetings.—concealing or untimouſly revealing the faults of another.

NOTE. It is concealing or untimouſly revealing, when it is not given in to the ſtewards immediately, if committed in the club-room; or when committed in any other place, and not given in before the books are ſhut, at the next meeting.

Two-penny Fines.

MEMBERS being diſguiſed with liquor in the club-room.——ſpeaking when not called upon

* Country members, and thoſe upon the water, or going when warned, are exempt.

‖ This fine is to be drank before the committee diſmiſs. All other fines to go to the fund.

upon,—not being ſilent,—ſitting with their hats on,—touching the box or books without orders,—going out of the club-room without aſking leave of the ſtewards, while the books are open,—offering to hold or lay wagers,—calling the ſtewards by any other name than Mr *Steward*,—calling a brother by any other name than his chriſtian name or *Brother*,—ſpeaking reproachfully of any brother's perſon, occupation, or performance,——and, laſtly, not bringing the copy of articles on half-year-days.

NOTE. Whatever cauſes or diſputes ariſe amongſt the members, or whatever information be given, every charge ſhall be eſtabliſhed by the mouth of two or three witneſſes; the witneſſes to be members of the ſociety, except the Landlord or father of the box.—All fines not ſpecified in the articles, to be levied at the company or committee's diſcretion.—Fines contracted on one meet-day are payable the next; if contracted between meetings, to be booked, and intimated the next meeting.

ARTICLE VIII.

Of Excluſion.

ANY Member attempting, or perſuading others to diſolve or break up the ſociety.—— Any member, clerk, or beadle attempting to borrow caſh, whether by petition or otherwiſe, for their own private uſe.—Any member acting buſineſs,—going above a mile from home without leave from the ſtewards,—being drunk or quarrelling,—being out of his houſe or lodgings after ten o'clock from Lady-day to Michaelmas, or after eight o'clock from Michaelmas to Lady-day, while on the benefit.——Stewards

ards not ſtopping benefit off ſick members after hearing they have been at work,—not reporting it to the ſociety.—Any member being half a year debtor on the books,——laying violent hands on box or books,——entering as a member into another ſociety,—defiling themſelves with unclean women,——committing adultery, ——being guilty of any lewd, obnoxious, or diſloyal practices, whereby he may be liable to public cenſure from church or ſtate,—taking advantage of the ſociety,——embezzleing or attempting to embezzle their money,—rendering themſelves incapable of buſineſs, or becoming a diſgrace to the ſociety.——Any who through malice, envy, hatred, or revenge, endeavour to make any of their brethren appear contemptible to this ſociety, without aſſigning ſufficient reaſons to prove they are not worthy members of the community.——And, *finally*, ſuch as are diſorderly, fractious, contentious, ungovernable, and diſobedient, who will not peaceably ſubmit to the articles, or determination of the majority of this ſociety, SHALL BE EXCLUDED *.

ARTICLE IX.

Of the Perpetuity and Obligation of A

IT IS FINALLY AGREED, that ety ſhall never be broke up, nor its- ed or divided amongſt the mem

* NONE excluded to be re-adm of the ſociety,—and not at all if not firſt directs.

three or more of them are willing to the utmoſt of their power to ſupport and carry it on. And that the ſafety, increaſe, and proſperity of the fund, and intereſt of its members may be always, and in all caſes, a chief law and rule in this ſociety; each member at entrance, ſhall make the following declaration:

I do hereby promiſe before this ſociety, that my real deſire is to enter among them with a determined reſolution, to ſupport and defend their fund to the utmoſt of my power; and in ſuch a manner, as I may be able to anſwer for my conduct before any authority, and alſo before this ſociety.——I alſo aſſent and conſent to the articles of this ſociety, and whatever may be determined by the majority of the members for the better government thereof; and, I alſo promiſe, whether as a private member or truſtee, to act, vote, and determine according to conſcience, and the beſt of my underſtanding; without partiality, ſelfiſh views, or deſigns. IN WITNESS whereof, I ſubſcribe my name to the liſt of members belonging this ſociety.

* THE members of this ſociety leave ſelves at liberty to make ſuch alterations articles, on half-year-days, as the majo- members may ſee neceſſary.

member reproach any belonging to account of the articles, he ſhall ſociety's diſcretion.

FINIS.

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